

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of preventing ischemic acute renal failure in an individual in need thereof comprising administering a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of erythropoietin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. A method of treating ischemic acute renal failure in an individual in need of thereof comprising administering a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of erythropoietin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. A method of preventing harmful cell apoptosis in renal tubular cells, comprising administering a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of erythropoietin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

4. A method of stimulating motogenesis and mitogenesis in renal tubular cells comprising administering a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of erythropoietin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said erythropoietin is recombinant erythropoietin.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said drug composition further comprises a member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically acceptable solvents, diluents, excipients, emulsifiers, and stabilizers.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said drug composition is administered systemically.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said drug composition is administered at subpolycythemic doses.

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11. The method of claim 10 wherein said doses are in the range of 50 U/kg body weight of EPO in a pharmacological composition.